

Remarks

Applicants respectfully request entry of the following amendments as previously suggested by Examiner in Final Rejection of 9/11/2003 to remove issues from Appeal as Examiners Advisory Action in Response to Applicants previously submitted first and second Supplemental Amendments after Final Rejection indicate the amendments have not been entered due in part to an inadvertent typographical error in claim 11 wherein the last paragraph was repeated.

Applicants also have corrected grammatical errors in claim 11, as suggested by Examiner in Final Rejection of 9/11/2003, to overcome Examiners Rejection under 35 USC 112, second paragraph, as well as cancelled claims 25 and 26 to overcome Examiners Objections. Applicants have amended claim 15 in accordance with Examiners requirement in Final Rejection of 9/11/2003 removing the issue of Rejection of claim 15 under 35 USC 112, second paragraph.

Applicants have also submitted amendments to the Specification as suggested by Examiner in Final Rejection of 9/11/2003 and as submitted in Applicants first supplemental amendment including correcting other minor typographical errors.

More specifically, the Abstract has been amended and a replacement paragraph presented on a separate page as required under revised amendment practice according to 37 CFR 1.121 as suggested by Examiner.

The Specification was inadvertently changed in the previous office action (paper #3) in paragraph 0042 due to reference to a pre-filed version of the Specification and has been amended as correctly pointed out by the Examiner to be consistent with the originally filed Specification. Inadvertently overlooked grammatical corrections pointed out by Examiner and appreciated by Applicants have been added in the present Supplemental Amendment with respect to paragraphs 0008 and 0010.

Claim 11 has been amended to correct grammatical errors thereby removing the basis of Examiners objection and rejection under section 112, second paragraph, by changing the reference to "one via openings" to "the via openings" and changing the reference to "one or more via openings" to "the via openings" making these portions consistent with antecedent portions of the claim and dependent claims. Claims 25 and 26 have been cancelled to overcome Examiners Objection that these claims fail to further limit claims 1 and 11. Claim 18 has been left in its previously presented condition.

Claim 15 has been amended in accordance with Examiners requirement to overcome rejection under 35 USC Section 112, second paragraph.

Applicants have also submitted an amended Appeal Brief in response to Examiners Notification of Non-Compliance with 37 CFR 1.192(c). Although Applicants respectfully disagree with Examiners interpretation of the required Grouping of claims as set out in CFR 1.192(c), Applicants have attempted to Group the claims in conformance with Examiners comments. Applicants have reproduced the claims in the Clams Appendix as they existed after Applicants first submitted amendment on or about 8/1/2003 in accordance with Examiners requirement.

In the event that there is some other issue that can be resolved prior to Appeal, or for any other reason, the Examiner is respectfully invited to call the Applicants' representative at his Bloomfield Hills, Michigan office at (248) 540-4040 such that necessary action may be taken to place the application in a condition for Appeal.

Respectfully submitted,


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